

CLAIMS

1. A support frame that supports an air duct in a vertical configuration between spaced wall studs; the air duct having an outer perimeter; the support frame comprising:

a body defining a central opening adapted to receive the air duct;

the central opening having a perimeter larger than the outer perimeter of the air duct; and

a flange extending up from the body adjacent the central opening; the flange being angled inwardly toward the central opening and adapted to engage the air duct.

2. The support frame of claim 1, wherein the flange pivots with respect to the body.

3. The support frame of claim 2, wherein the central opening is rectangular; the flange including four flange sections with one flange section disposed along each side of the central opening.

4. The support frame of claim 3, wherein opposed flange sections are angled toward each other.

5. The support frame of claim 1, wherein the body defines a plurality of connector openings that surround the central opening.

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6. The support frame of claim 1, wherein the flange defines a plurality of connector openings that surround the central opening.

7. The support frame of claim 1, wherein the body includes a pair of opposed ends; each of the ends defining a notch adapted to receive a wall stud.

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8. The support frame of claim 7, wherein the central opening of the body is centered between the notches.

9. The support frame of claim 1, wherein the body is in the form of a thin metal plate.

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10. The support frame of claim 1, wherein the flange is continuous and extends entirely about the central opening.

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11. The support frame of claim 10, wherein the perimeter of the flange is oval and the flange is frusto-conical in shape.

12. The support frame of claim 11, wherein the flange has an upper edge and a pair of tabs extend from the upper edge of the flange.

13. The support flange of claim 12, wherein each of the tabs defines at least one connector opening.

14. The support frame of claim 13, wherein the tabs are angled toward each other.

15. A vertical air duct and wall assembly comprising:

a horizontal floor board;

a pair of spaced wall studs extending in a vertical direction with respect to the floor board;

the floor board defining a duct opening between the spaced wall studs;

a duct disposed in the duct opening and extending vertically between the wall studs;

a support frame connected to the floor board and the duct;

the support frame holding the duct in position with respect to the wall studs and the floor board;

the support frame having a body defining a central opening that receives the air duct;

the central opening having a perimeter larger than the outer perimeter of the air duct; and

a flange extending up from the body adjacent the central opening; the flange being angled inwardly toward the central opening and engaging the air duct.

16. The assembly of claim 15, wherein the central opening is rectangular; the flange including four flange sections with one flange section disposed along each side of the central opening.

17. The assembly of claim 15, wherein the body includes a pair of opposed ends; each of the ends defining a notch with one of the wall studs disposed in each of the notches.

18. The assembly of claim 17, wherein the central opening of the body is centered between the notches.

19. The assembly of claim 15, wherein the flange is continuous and extends entirely about the central opening.

20. The assembly of claim 19, wherein the flange has an upper edge and a pair of tabs extend from the upper edge of the flange; the tabs engaging the air duct.